

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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O 191405Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 225

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 0354

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E.O. XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR EAID JO XF
SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER BADRANAAAREA DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY IN REVIEWING AREA DEVELOPMENTS PRIME MINISTER
BADRAN CONFIRMED TO ME THAT ADDITIONAL RABAT PAYMENTS FOR
1976 WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. ADDED THAT SAUDIS WANT AIR
DEFENSE FUNDING DEDUCTED FROM THIER RABAT OBLIGATIONS TO
JORDAN. HOWEVER, BADRAN WHO SAYS HE HAS KI G HISSEINS
AGREEMENT TO USE ALL RABAT PAYMENT FOR BUDGET RATHER THAN
DEFENSE, IS POTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANGING SAUDI POSITION, MAY
BE FOLLOWING VISITING THERE SOON BY KING HUSSEIN. TURNING
TO OTHER MATTERS BADRAN SAID KING HUSSEIN WILL MEET TODAY
WITH PNA PREISDENT KHALID EL FAHUM AND PLO LEADER HANI
HASSAN WHO BADRAN SAYS WANTS PLO TO ATTEND GENEVA, ACCEPT
WEST BANK MINI-STATE AND CONFEDERATE WITH JORDAN.
ALL ARAB LEADERS NOW WANT THIS, AND JORDAN IS AFRAID
IT WILL BE LEFT WITH BLAME FOR REQUISITE WEST BANK
CONCESSIONS--EXACTLY PLO'S INTENTIONS, BADRAN
THINKS. HE AGREES THAT MIGHT BE AVOIDED BY SYRIAN
PRESIDENT ASSAD'S IDEA OF SINGLE ARAB DELEGATION
AT GENEVA. IN CLOSING, BADRAN REAFFIRMED JORDAN'S
WISH TO COOPERATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITH NEW U.S.
GOVERNMENT ON UNCERTAIN ROAD HEAD IN MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY.

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1.I SPOKE WITH PRIME MINISTER BADRAN JANUARY 19M
ABOUT RECENT AREA DEVELOPMENTS

2. ON RABAT SUMMIT PAYMENTS, HE CONFIRMED THAT 1976
PAYMENTS WOULD NOT BE RECEIEVED FROM OTHER DONOR
COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH HRE REMAKRED THAT QATAR AND THE
UNITED ARAB EMERITES HAD BOTH PAID JORDAN SUBSTANTIAL

AMOUNTS AGOUNST THE RABAT SUMMIT COMMITTEMENT FOR 1976. HE NOTED THAT JORDAN CONTINUED TO HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH KUWAIT ALTHOUGH ALL DONORS, INCLUDICG KUWAIT HAD AGREED TO PAY FOR 1977 AND 1978 AS EARLIER REPORTED. HE SAID THT SAUDIS HAD STATED AT THE MEETINGS ON THE SUBJECT THAT FUNDS PROVIDED FROM TQTO JORDAN FOR THE AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE COUNTED AGAINST THE RABAT PAYMENTS.

3. BADRAN SAID HE TOLD THE SAUDIS THAT THIS WAS A BILATERAL ISSUE AND WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TWO STATES PRIVATELY. HE SAID THAT JORDAN'S POSITION IS THAT AIR DEFENSE COMMITTEMENT WAS MADE BY KING FEISAL TO JORDAN BEFORE RABAT. SUBTRACTING THE FUNDS FROM RABAT WOULD BE NEGATING COMPLETELY THE VALUE TO JORDAN OF THE RABAT PAYMENTS. SECONDLY HE SAID THE JORDANIANS UNDERSTAND THE AIR DEFENSE PAYMENTS ARE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE UNITED STATES AND NEVER BECOME PART OF JORDAN'S OWN FINANCES. HE INDICATED OPTIMISM TO ME ABOUT CHANGING THIS SUAID POSITION WHICH HE ASSUMED WAS TAKEN FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES. HE NOTEC THE KING WILL PROBABLY BE GOING TO SAUDI ARABIA SOMETIME SOON IN PART TO STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT. HE ALSO SAID THAT RABAT PAY MENTS WHICH HE RECEIVES WILL ALL GO INTO THE GOJ BUDGET AND THAT HE HAS KINGS AND CINC BIN SHAKERS AGREEMENT ON THIS.

4. SECOND PORTION OF THE DISCUSSION CONCERNED
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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA. BADRAN SAID THAT KING WILL BE MEETING TODAY WITH KHALID EL FAHUM PRESIDENT OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PLO LEADER HANI HASSAN. HE REAFFIRMED FACT THAT JORDAN WISHED TO ATTEND GENEVA BUT NOT TO NEGOTIATE CONCESSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS OVER THE WEST BANK. JORDAN STILL BELIEVES PLO SHOULD DO THAT ITSELF HANI HASSAN WHO BADRAN AYS HE TRUSTS AS LONG AS THREE YEARS AGO, GAVE BADRAN A COMMITTEMENT THAT

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 0354

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA'S 4, 5 AND 6)

PLS WOULD GO TO GENEVA, WOULD ACCEPT A MINI-STATE IN
WEST BANK, AND WOULD THEN DEVELOP A CONFEDERATION
WITH JORDAN.

5. I REVIEWED WITH BADRAN SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES
WHICH WE HAD ALWAYS SEEN IN PLO INSISTENCE ON ATTENDING
GENEVA, INCLUDING ISRAELI POSITION, THE PLO'S OWN
REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE BASIC PREMISES OF NEGOTIATION
(UNSC RESOLUTION 242 AND 338) AND ERRODING ARAB
SUPPORT FOR PLO AS A RESULT OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN
JORDAN AND LEBANON.

6. BADRAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD ALL OF THIS ESPECIALLY AS AN
EAST BANKER WHO LIVED THROUGH THE WORSE DAYS OF 1970,
HE SAID NEVERTHELESS THAT PALESTINIANS HAVE TO BE
INCLUDED IN A SETTLEMENT AND THEIR PROBLEM MUST BE
RESOLVED. ALL THE ARAB LEADERS
ARE NOW FIRLY LINED UP BEHIND SOME LINKAGE
OF THE EAST AND WEST BANK UNDER KING HUSSEIN IN
WHICH THE PALESTINIANS HAVE LOCAL AUTONOMY. JORDAN
WAS VERY MUCH AFRAID THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO SUFFER
ALL OF THE BLAME FOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS
IN THE WEST BANK AND RECEIVE NONE OF THE CREDIT OR
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ADVANTAGES FROM THE PROCESS AND THIS INDEED WAS WHAT
THE PLO SECRETLY WAS DETERMINED TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT.

7. WE THEN DISCUSSED VERY BRIEFLY PRESIDENT ASSAD'S
CONTINUING PROPOSAL FOR A SINGLE UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION
AT GENEVA. BADRAN TOLD ME HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT
WELL BE POSSIBLE TO DO THIS SINCE THAT APPROACH WOULD HELP TO
REMOVE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH KING HUSSEIN SAY
IN TERMS OF JORDAN BEING STUCK WITH FULL RESPONSIBILITY

FOR NEGOTIATING CONCESSIONS ON THE WEST BANK.

8. BADRAN REAFFIRMED TO ME THAT IN ALL OF THE ARAB WORLD THERE IS NO MORE FLEXIBLE LEADER THAN JUSSIN AND THAT WE COULD COUNT ON JORDAN'S LISTENING ATTENTIVELY AND DOING ITS BEST TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT US VIEWS AND ATTITUDES AS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MOVED IN TO A REVIEW OF MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY. I THANKED HIM FOR HIS STATEMENT ON THIS POINT AND SAID WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

9. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO AND DAMASCUS PICKERING

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